



# ECU Reconciliation Action Plan and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy for Research

*Edith Cowan University (ECU) is proud to acknowledge our continuing association with the Nyoongar People, the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which our campuses stand. In particular, we acknowledge that ECU's Joondalup and Mount Lawley campuses are in the area of the Whadjuk clan, while the South West Campus stands in the area of the Wardandi clan.*

ECU is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities towards reconciliation. 'Theme Seven – Research' within ECU's [Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021](#) (RAP), underpinned by the [ECU Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#), aims to ensure Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research is embedded across the four Research Themes and Priority Areas. ECU will continue to support, recruit and train Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students and contribute to the awareness of cultural practices, knowledge and research of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ECU aims to support the work of universities as a collective in looking to advance Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander participation and success in higher education, aligning with [Universities Australia's Indigenous Strategy 2017-2020](#).

This document articulates ECU's plans in implementing the ECU Reconciliation Action Plan (ECU Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021: Theme Seven - Research) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy (Universities Australia's Indigenous Strategy 2017-2020) for Research.

## Implementation Plan

### **32. Develop Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research objectives as integral to the University's future research direction. Develop Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research objectives as integral to the University's future research direction.**

32.1 'Aboriginal Culture, Education and Health' continues to be a priority research theme at ECU for proactive, positive inquiry.

32.1.1 Embed Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research into ECU's Research Themes and Priority Areas to align with the revised Research theme and priority area of Society and Culture: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society and culture.

32.2 Clearly articulate ECU's commitment to, and expectations in, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research as objectives in ECU's research plan.

May 2019

32.2.1 In developing ECU's research strategy, clearly articulate the relevant objectives relating to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research within the document.

32.3 Allocate up to \$25,000 per annum to support:

- a) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander postdoctoral researchers/academics to conduct research in any of ECU's research strengths and priorities; and
- b) All researchers undertaking research in the ECU research priority 'Aboriginal Culture, Education and Health'.

Criteria and process for developing and administering grants developed. Demonstrated research outputs from the use of the funds to include appropriate research translation to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities.

32.3.1 Update ECU's internal research grant guidelines to reflect cultural inclusion for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers.

32.3.2 Administer and centrally fund an annual internal funding scheme to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers and/or research conducted under the revised Research theme and priority area of Society and Culture: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society and culture.

32.4 Increase the number of appropriately developed applications to grant bodies/ funding agencies for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-specific research.

32.4.1 Encourage and support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers to apply for external grant funding, especially for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-specific funding opportunities.

32.4.2 Include Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers on external grant applications, to develop their research track record, while also building capacity within the University

32.4.3 Encourage and support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers in becoming Assistant or Primary Supervisors for HDR students, thereby enriching the research outcomes, perspectives and interpretation.

**33. Establish an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Research Steering Committee to guide ECU researchers in the implementation of protocols, ethics, coordinate resources and support.**

33.1 Scoping undertaken and business case developed to resource the establishment of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Research Steering Committee.

33.1.1 Undertake a scoping exercise and write a business case to establish the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Research Steering Committee, as a sub-committee of the Research and Higher Degrees Committee.

33.2 Terms of reference, membership and schedule of meetings agreed.

33.2.1 Following the approval of the Steering Committee, develop terms of reference, membership and meeting schedules.

33.3 Progress reported to *Research and Higher Degrees Committee* and through the RAP progress reporting arrangements.

33.3.1 Report progress of the Steering Committee to the Research and Higher Degrees Committee and the RAP progress reporting arrangements.

**34. Continued implementation of agreed protocols on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research to ensure that research activity is informed by sound cultural-awareness and respect.**

34.1 All research grants and projects on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander topics provide evidence to the *Human Research Ethics Committee* of appropriate community consultation and adherence to the University's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research protocols. ECU Ethics Committee considers the mechanism for translation/transference of research to the community as an active part of research/grant applications.

34.1.1 Promote and support the adherence to ECU's [Aboriginal Research and study protocols](#).

34.1.2 Ensure all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is conducted in compliance with ECU's [Responsible Research Conduct Policy](#).

34.2 At least one Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person included in the membership of ECU's Ethics Committee.

34.2.1 Encourage Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representation on ECU's Human Research Ethics Committee, as and when required.

34.2.2 Encourage Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representation on ECU's Animal Research Ethics Committee, as and when required.

34.3 Undertake at least one professional development event per year on applying protocols for new researchers planning to conduct Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander related research.

34.3.1 Ensure one professional development event per year is available for researchers in applying protocols to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander related research.

**35. Identify, undertake and promote research which focuses on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture and communities.**

35.1 Where a scholarship(s) is awarded to an appropriate higher degree by research student(s) conducting research through the Australian Indigenous Health *InfoNet*, provide additional research support funding.

35.1.1 Match funding provided by the Australian Indigenous Health *InfoNet* towards relevant HDR scholarships for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students.

35.2 Engage with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, including the Kudjukat Wow-ring (*Future Making*) consultative committee to identify at least one new community driven research initiative.



35.2.1 In partnership with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities (and Kudjikat Wow-ring), develop a better process for supporting communities to identify their needs, which may lead to research-led solutions.

35.2.2 Formally articulate ECU's intent to build research capacity and skills within Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as to develop strong and enduring relationships between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and ECU.

35.3 All research projects on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander topics to include collaboration with appropriate communities. Develop at least one collaborative research relationship/partnership with an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community.

35.3.1 Invite Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities into the research development process and encourage community-initiated and community-partnered research.

35.3.2 Build on the experience of the Australian Indigenous Health *InfoNet* to develop a suite of diverse communication styles and modes, suitable for message/outcomes delivery. This will assist researchers in more effectively translating research relating to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, recognising this may require a different approach.

35.4 Increase the visibility of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research and researchers through promotion at ECU's annual Research Week.

*NOTE: The running of Research Week may be effected by budget constraints.*

35.4.1 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research and researchers will be promoted through Research Weekly, a weekly newsletter about research at ECU.

35.4.2 ECU staff have the opportunity to be recognised through the Vice-Chancellor's award for 'Contribution to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Advancement', open to all staff (including researchers).

35.5 Develop international research collaboration on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultures, history and experiences.

35.5.1 Encourage international research collaboration on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people's cultures, history and experiences through the Research Themes and Priority Areas and leveraging ECU's strong international ratings.

### **36. Build Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research capacity within ECU's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities.**

36.1 Information on available support services and strengths-based opportunities provided to all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander honours students.

36.1.1 Develop a channel for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander post-graduate students to understand what support services and opportunities area available in order to undertake HDR studies.

36.2 At least one ECU-funded scholarship available annually to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander higher degree by research student enrolling in an ECU research priority area.

36.2.1 Establish an annual scholarship program for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander HDR students enrolling at ECU in a Research Priority Area – the RAP Research Scholarship.

36.3 Continue the commitment to building research capacity by ongoing resourcing of an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Fellowship.

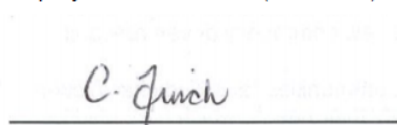
36.3.1 Ensure Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers are encouraged to apply for fellowship recruitment rounds (includes ECRs) at ECU.

36.3.2 Identify ECU Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander alumni and formally invite the cohort to apply for the above mentioned scholarship, or other available places in HDR programs.

36.3.3 Develop support structures around Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander HDR students, and Fellows to maximise their success at ECU.

*Endorsed by:*

**Professor Caroline Finch AO**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)



**Professor Braden Hill**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Equity and Indigenous



**Appendix: ECU Reconciliation Action Plan and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy for Research - Implementation Plan**

Action	Target	Timeline	Activities	Responsibility
<b>32. Develop Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research objectives as integral to the University's future research direction. Develop Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research objectives as integral to the University's future research direction.</b>	32.1 'Aboriginal Culture, Education and Health' continues to be a priority research theme at ECU for proactive, positive inquiry.	Ongoing	32.1.1 Embed Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research into ECU's Research Themes and Priority Areas to align with the revised Research theme and priority area of Society and Culture: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society and culture.	DVCR/ADRs
	32.2 Clearly articulate ECU's commitment to, and expectations in, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research as objectives in ECU's research plan.	June 2020	32.2.1 In developing ECU's research strategy, clearly articulate the relevant objectives relating to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research within the document.	DVCR
	32.3 Allocate up to \$25,000 per annum to support: a) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander postdoctoral researchers/academics to conduct research in any of ECU's research strengths and priorities; and b) All researchers undertaking research in the ECU research priority 'Aboriginal Culture, Education and Health'.  Criteria and process for developing and administering grants developed. Demonstrated research outputs from the use of the funds to include appropriate research translation to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities.	Ongoing	32.3.1 Update ECU's internal research grant guidelines to reflect cultural inclusion for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers. 32.3.2 Administer and centrally fund an annual internal funding scheme to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers and/or research conducted under the revised Research theme and priority area of Society and Culture: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society and culture.	RS  RS/DVCR
	32.4 Increase the number of appropriately developed applications to grant bodies/ funding agencies for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-specific research.	Ongoing	32.4.1 Encourage and support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers to apply for external grant funding, especially for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-specific funding opportunities. 32.4.2 Identify external grant applications where Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers may be included, to develop their research track record, while also building capacity within the University. 32.4.3 Encourage and support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers in becoming Assistant or Primary Supervisors for HDR students, thereby enriching the research outcomes, perspectives and interpretation.	ADRs/RS  ADRs/RS  ADRs/GRS

Action	Target	Timeline	Activities	Responsibility
<b>33. Establish an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Research Steering Committee to guide ECU researchers in the implementation of protocols, ethics, coordinate resources and support.</b>	33.1 Scoping undertaken and business case developed to resource the establishment of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Research Steering Committee.	Dec 2020	33.1.1 Undertake a scoping exercise and write a business case to establish the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Research Steering Committee, as a sub-committee of the Research and Higher Degrees Committee.	DVCR
	33.2 Terms of reference, membership and schedule of meetings agreed.	Dec 2020	33.2.1 Following the approval of the Steering Committee, develop terms of reference, membership and meeting schedules.	DVCR
	33.3 Progress reported to Research and Higher Degrees Committee and through the RAP progress reporting arrangements.	Ongoing	33.3.1 Report progress of the Steering Committee to the Research and Higher Degrees Committee and the RAP progress reporting arrangements.	Steering Committee (proposed)
<b>34. Continued implementation of agreed protocols on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research to ensure that research activity is informed by sound cultural-awareness and respect.</b>	34.1 All research grants and projects on Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander topics provide evidence to the Human Research Ethics Committee of appropriate community consultation and adherence to the University's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research protocols.  ECU Ethics Committee considers the mechanism for translation/transference of research to the community as an active part of research/grant applications.	Ongoing	34.1.1 Promote and support the adherence to ECU's <u>Aboriginal Research and Study Protocols</u> 34.1.2 Ensure all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is conducted in compliance with ECU's <u>Responsible Research Conduct Policy</u> .	RS/GRS/ADRs/DVCR  RS/ADRs
	34.2 At least one Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person included in the membership of ECU's Ethics Committee.	Ongoing	34.2.1 Encourage Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representation on ECU's Human Research Ethics Committee, as and when required. 34.2.2 Encourage Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representation on ECU's Animal Research Ethics Committee, as and when required.	RS/Human Research Ethics Committee  RS/Animal Research Ethics Committee
	34.3 Undertake at least one professional development event per year on applying protocols for new researchers planning to conduct Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander related research.	Annually	34.3.1 Ensure one professional development event per year is available for researchers in applying protocols to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander related research.	RS/GRS
<b>35. Identify, undertake and promote research which focuses on</b>	35.1 Where a scholarship(s) is awarded to an appropriate higher degree by research student(s) conducting research through the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, provide additional research support funding.	Ongoing	35.1.1 Match funding provided by the Australian Indigenous Health InfoNet towards relevant HDR scholarships for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students.	DVCR

Action	Target	Timeline	Activities	Responsibility
<b>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture and communities.</b>	35.2 Engage with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, including the Kudjukat Wow-r-ing (Future Making) consultative committee to identify at least one new community driven research initiative.	Ongoing	35.2.1 In partnership with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities (and Kudjukat Wow-r-ing), develop a better process for supporting communities to identify their needs, which may lead to research-led solutions. 35.2.2 Formally articulate ECU's intent to build research capacity and skills within Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as to develop strong and enduring relationships between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and ECU.	DVCR/KK/ADRs  DVCR/KK
	35.3 All research projects on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander topics to include collaboration with appropriate communities. Develop at least one collaborative research relationship/partnership with an Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander community.	Annually	35.3.1 Invite Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities into the research development process and encourage community-initiated and community-partnered research. 35.3.2 Build on the experience of the Australian Indigenous Health <i>InfoNet</i> to develop a suite of diverse communication styles and modes, suitable for message/outcomes delivery on projects. This will assist researchers in more effectively translating research relating to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, recognising this may require a different approach.	ADRs/KK  KK/ADRs
	35.4 Increase the visibility of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research and researchers through promotion at ECU's annual Research Week.  <i>NOTE: The running of Research Week may be effected by budget constraints.</i>	Ongoing	35.4.1 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research and researchers will be promoted through Research Weekly, a weekly newsletter about research at ECU. 35.4.2 ECU staff have the opportunity to be recognised through the Vice-Chancellor's award for 'Contribution to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Advancement', open to all staff (including researchers).	RS  Researchers
	35.5 Develop international research collaboration on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultures, history and experiences.	Ongoing	35.5.1. Encourage international research collaboration on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people's cultures, history and experiences through the Research Themes and	ADRs/KK

Action	Target	Timeline	Activities	Responsibility
			Priority Areas and leveraging ECU's strong international ratings.	
<b>36. Build Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research capacity within ECU's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities.</b>	36.1 Information on available support services and strengths-based opportunities provided to all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander honours students.	Dec 2020	36.1.1 Develop a channel for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander post-graduate students to understand what support services and opportunities area available in order to undertake HDR studies.	GRS
	36.2 At least one ECU-funded scholarship available annually to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander higher degree by research student enrolling in an ECU research priority area.	Annually	36.2.1 Establish an annual scholarship program for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander HDR students enrolling at ECU in a Research Priority Area – the RAP Research Scholarship.	GRS
	36.3 Continue the commitment to building research capacity by ongoing resourcing of an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Fellowship.	Ongoing	36.3.1 Ensure Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers are encouraged to apply for fellowship recruitment rounds (includes ECRs) at ECU. 36.3.2 Identify ECU Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander alumni and formally invite the cohort to apply for the above mentioned scholarship, or other available places in HDR programs. 36.3.3 Develop support structures around Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander HDR students, and Fellows to maximise their success at ECU.	HR/ADRs/DVCR  GRS  GRS/RS/ADRs

**Acronyms**

DVCR: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

ADRs: Associate Dean, Research

RS: Research Services

GRS: Graduate Research School

KK: Kurungkurl Katitjin, Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research

HR: Human Resources

ECR: Early Career Researchers